



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

January 24, 2007

Caree Vander Linden  
USAMRIID Public Affairs  
1425 Porter Street  
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5011

RE: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Construction and Operation of New U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID).  
CEQ No. 20060530

Dear Ms. Linden:

In accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above mentioned FEIS. The FEIS was prepared to meet the requirements of NEPA and to assess the potential environmental harm that may result from the proposed Department of the Army project to construct and operate a new U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) facility.

The EIS evaluated two Alternatives and the No Build scenario in detail. Alternative I consists of the construction and operation of the new USAMRIID facilities and decommissioning and demolition of the existing USAMRIID facilities on area A of Fort Detrick. Alternative II includes construction and operation of the new USAMRIID facilities and decommissioning and *partial demolition* of the existing USAMRIID facilities and *the re-use of the remaining* facilities on area A of Fort Detrick. The No Build Alternative assumes no new construction and USAMRIID would continue operating in its existing facility.

The FEIS concludes that both Alternatives I and II would fulfill the purpose and need of the Proposed Action. Both alternatives were also determined to have only minor impacts on the environment. Alternative II as been identified as the preferred alternative because it is allows flexibility for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions to accommodate personnel in the renovated space of the existing USAMRIID. EPA has no objections to this project.

EPA thanks the Department of the Army for the opportunity to review this document. Should you have any question regarding this matter please feel free to contact Jamie Davis of the NEPA team at 215-814-5569.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Arguto", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

William Arguto  
NEPA Team Leader

